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25 October 1981

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence

FROM : Dwane R. Clarridge

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SUBJECT : Policy Options for Central America and Cuba

1. The undersigned with Constantine Menges attended an interagency meeting at State on 24 October to review State and DOD drafts. The result (Staff Draft — ~~DDCI~~ 10-24-81 Revised) is included in your reading material. Clarridge and [redacted] believe that DOD is overstating the quantity of US forces needed to do the job, particularly with regard to Option II. 25X1

2. Since the last NSPG meeting, we have been unable to confirm that a large number of Cuban elite troops are in Nicaragua. Our best estimate is that probably no more than 250 of these troops are currently there. [redacted] 25X1

4. Enclosed is a memorandum on Nicaragua's support for insurgents. You may want to brief the NSPG on this. We are concerned that the Nicaraguans and Cubans are moving faster than we are. 25X1

5. On Monday morning Secretaries Haig and Weinberger and their deputies, together with the Joint Chiefs of Staff, are meeting for breakfast to discuss the Central America-Cuba paper. Because Policy II of the paper involves substantial CIA assets you may wish to attend.

6. Dewey Clarridge read this memorandum in draft.

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Attachments

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